

1
2
3
4
5
6
7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

9 CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL
10 DIVERSITY, et al.

Case No.
2:24-cv-05459-FMO-MAA

11 Plaintiff(s),

**ORDER SETTING SCHEDULING
CONFERENCE**

12 v.

13 DEBRA HAALAND, et al.

14
15 Defendant(s).
16

17 **PLEASE READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT DIFFERS IN SOME**
18 **RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

19 **The term "Counsel," as used in this Order, includes parties appearing**
20 **pro se.**

21 In an effort to comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 1's mandate "to secure the just,
22 speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action[.]" IT IS ORDERED as
23 follows:

24 1. Counsel for the parties shall attend a scheduling conference on
25 **October 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM**, in Courtroom 6D of the 1st Street Courthouse.
26 Lead trial counsel **must** attend the scheduling conference, unless excused by
27 the court for good cause shown in advance of the scheduling conference. When
28 seeking permission not to attend, lead counsel must identify the person who will

appear by name and bar number and specify that person's involvement in the case.

The court may choose to postpone the scheduling conference rather than to permit counsel other than lead counsel to attend. Local counsel may not appear at a scheduling conference in place of lead counsel. Counsel should not purport to be "co-lead" counsel as a means of avoiding this requirement.

2. No later than **September 26, 2024**, counsel for all appearing parties and all unrepresented appearing parties, if any, shall meet, in person, telephonically or via video conference, and discuss the matters set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) ("Rule 26(f)") as well as those items identified in paragraph 4, below.

3. No later than **October 3, 2024**, counsel for all appearing parties, and all unrepresented appearing parties, if any, shall file a Joint Rule 26(f) Report. **A mandatory chambers copy** of the Joint Rule 26(f) Report shall be delivered to the chambers drop box at the Clerk's Office, 4th Floor of the First Street Courthouse **by 12:00 p.m. on the business day following the e-filing of the Joint Rule 26(f) Report.**

4. The Joint Rule 26(f) Report shall be drafted by plaintiff (unless the parties agree otherwise) but shall be submitted and signed jointly. "Jointly" contemplates a single report, regardless of how many separately represented parties there are. The Joint Rule 26(f) Report shall specify the date of the scheduling conference on the caption page. It shall report on all matters described below, which include those required to be discussed by Rule 26(f) and Local Rule 26-1:

a. Statement of the Case: A short synopsis (not to exceed two pages) of the main claims, counterclaims and affirmative defenses.

b. Subject Matter Jurisdiction: A statement of the **specific** basis of federal jurisdiction, including supplemental jurisdiction.

c. Legal Issues: A brief description of the **key legal issues**, including any unusual substantive, procedural or evidentiary

issues.

- d. Parties, Evidence, etc.: A list of parties, percipient witnesses and key documents on the main issues in the case. For conflict purposes, corporate parties must identify all subsidiaries all subsidiaries, parents and affiliates.
- e. Insurance: Whether there is insurance coverage and the extent of such coverage.
- f. Magistrate Judge: Whether the parties consent to a mutually agreeable magistrate judge from the court's Voluntary Consent List to preside over this action for all purposes, including trial.
- g. Discovery: A detailed discovery plan and a proposed discovery cut-off date. If the parties anticipate calling expert witnesses, they must propose a schedule for expert witness disclosures (initial and rebuttal) and expert discovery cut-off under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2).
- h. Motions: A statement of the likelihood of motions seeking to add other parties or claims, file amended pleadings, transfer venue, etc.
- i. Class Certification: A proposed deadline for the filing of a class certification motion, if applicable.
- j. Dispositive Motions: A proposed cut-off date for dispositive motions and a description of the issues or claims that any party believes may be determined by such motions.
- k. Settlement/Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):
A statement of what settlement discussions or written communications have occurred (excluding any statement of the terms discussed). Even if the parties receive a Notice to Parties of Court-Directed ADR Program, the parties shall

1 indicate their settlement preference - private mediation, the
2 assigned Magistrate Judge or an attorney from the court's ADR
3 Panel - in the Rule 26(f) report. No case will proceed to trial
4 unless all parties, including an officer (with full authority to
5 settle the case) of each corporate party, have appeared personally
6 at an ADR proceeding.

- 7 l. Pretrial Conference and Trial: The proposed dates for the
8 pretrial conference and trial.
- 9 m. Trial Estimate: A realistic estimate of the time required for
10 trial and whether trial will be by jury or by court. Each side
11 should specify (by number, not by name) how many witnesses
12 it contemplates calling. If the time estimate for trial given in
13 the Joint Rule 26(f) Report exceeds four court days, counsel
14 shall be prepared to discuss in detail the estimate.
- 15 n. Trial Counsel: The name(s) of the attorney(s) who will try
16 the case.
- 17 o. Independent Expert or Master: Whether this is a case where
18 the court should consider appointing a master pursuant to
19 Fed. R. Civ. P. 53 or an independent scientific expert. (The
20 appointment of a master may be especially appropriate if
21 there are likely to be substantial discovery disputes, numerous
22 claims to be construed in connection with a summary judgment
23 motion, a lengthy Daubert hearing, a resolution of a difficult
24 computation of damages, etc.)
- 25 p. Other Issues: A statement of any other issues affecting the
26 status or management of the case (e.g., unusually complicated
27 technical or technological issues, disputes over protective
28 orders, extraordinarily voluminous document production,

#81
non-English-speaking witnesses, ADA-related issues,
discovery in foreign jurisdictions, etc.) and any proposals
concerning severance, bifurcation or other ordering of proof.

The Joint Rule 26(f) Report should set forth the above-described information
under section headings corresponding to those in this Order.

5. Discovery is governed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and
applicable Local Rules of the court. Pro se litigants are entitled to discovery to
the same extent as are litigants represented by counsel. The court allows discovery
to commence as soon as the first answer or motion to dismiss is filed. The parties
should note that **discovery shall not be stayed** while any motion is pending,
including any motion to dismiss and/or motion for protective order. **The parties
are directed to conduct any necessary discovery as soon as possible, as the
court is not inclined to grant any extensions of the discovery or other case-
related deadlines.**

6. Plaintiff's counsel or, if plaintiff is appearing pro se, defendant's
counsel, shall provide this Order to any parties who first appear after the date
of this Order and to parties who are known to exist but have not yet entered
appearances.

7. The failure of any party or attorney to comply with the requirements
of this Order, the Local Rules or the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure may result
in sanctions being imposed.

Dated The 6th of September 2024

/s/
Fernando M. Olguin
United States District Judge